

PARTNER

Mary J. Martinelli

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PRACTICE AREAS

Family Law

EDUCATION

J.D., University of California Davis, School of Law, 1986

B.A., University of California Berkeley, 1980

ADMISSIONS

California

LEADERSHIP

University of California Davis, School of Law (King Hall), Former Visiting/Adjunct Professor

University of California Davis, School of Medicine, Presenter of Didactic Program in Family Law

Foster Youth Education Fund, Member, Board of Directors

Dean's Leadership Council UCD School of Law, Member

Association of Certified Family Law Specialists, Former Board of Directors and Legislative Analyst

Weave, Former Board Member

Sacramento Ballet Company, Former Board Member

OVERVIEW

Mary Martinelli, C.F.L.S.* leads the Family Law Practice Team at Murphy Austin. She is a State Bar of California Board of Legal Specialization Certified Family Law Specialist with more than 35 years of experience representing clients statewide in complex family law matters.

Mary's practice focuses on dissolution of marriage, legal separation, child custody, prenuptial agreements, postnuptial agreements, cohabitation agreements, domestic violence, writs, appeals, corporate consulting related to family law issues, and expert consulting and testimony in the area of family law.

She previously taught Community Property Law and Family Law at the University of California Davis School of Law.

Mary's clients include high-profile leaders in corporate and agricultural business and professional services, entertainers, and professional athletes. She has a depth of understanding related to their specialized and unique family law needs.

She routinely works with highly skilled financial forensic accountants, appraisers, and physical and mental health evaluators, enabling her to thoroughly, efficiently, and effectively resolve sophisticated and challenging issues.

While Mary is well known statewide as a seasoned trial attorney, she consistently achieves favorable outcomes through mediated resolutions.

She has been honored by numerous national and local entities as one of the best family law attorneys in the country and she has earned a Preeminent five-star AV rating from Martindale-Hubbell since 1996 and placement among the *Judge's Review*. Mary has been recognized in the 2013 to 2027 editions of *The Best Lawyers in America* for excellence in Family Law and she has also been recognized as *Best Lawyers' Lawyer of the Year in Family Law* for the Sacramento metropolitan area.

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Sacramento County Pro-Tem Judge

California State ADR Standing Committee, Past Co-Chair

Milton L. Schwartz American Inn of Court, Former Barrister

Judicial Council Family Court Services Grants Advisory Committee, Former Member

MEMBERSHIPS

Association of Certified Family Law Specialists

Association of Trial Lawyers of America

Sacramento County Bar Association, Family Law Section

California Lawyers Association, Family Law Section



Prior to joining Murphy Austin, Mary led the Family Law Practice Group at Downey Brand LLP.

She earned her J.D. from University of California Davis, School of Law and received her B.A. from University of California Berkeley.

*Certified Family Law Specialist, The State Bar of California Board of Legal Specialization.

EXPERIENCE

Speaking Engagements

- Presenter, “Premarital Agreements as they relate to Business Succession Planning,” Capital Region Business Center
- Co-Presenter, “Death and Taxes are Certain, Divorce is Possible, and Business is Unpredictable – Are You Prepared?” Capital Region Family Business Center’s Annual Generations Conference
- Speaker, “Divorce, Family Law Issues, and Family Business,” The Capital Region Family Business Center
- Presenter, CFLR (Thompson Reuters) Family Law 101 and Advanced Family Law seminars
- Presenter, “‘Bridging the Gap,’ Young Lawyers,” Bankruptcy Law Forum and County Bar Estate Planning Section; Barristers’ Club
- Speaker, “Employee Benefits Roundtable,” The Capitol Region Family Business Center, C.E.B., N.B.I., S.A.L.A.

HONORS

- Certified Family Law Specialist, California Board of Legal Specialization
- AV Preeminent Rating by Martindale-Hubbell (1996-2026)
- AV Preeminent Attorney Judicial Edition by Martindale-Hubbell (2017-2026)
- Best Lawyers in America, Family Law (2013-2027)
- Best Lawyers Family Law “Lawyer of the Year” in Sacramento (2024)
- Best Lawyers Family Law “Lawyer of the Year” in Sacramento (2022)
- Best Lawyers, Women in the Law (2016)
- Super Lawyers, Northern California Super Lawyer, Family Law (2015-2025)
- *SacTown Magazine*, Top Lawyer, Family Law (2015-2024)
- *Sacramento Business Journal*, Best of the Bar (2013-2019)

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